

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 are pending in the application.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 5 through 7 are allowed, and that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has not rewritten claim 20, as Applicant submits that independent claim 18 is allowable.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,602 by Mendelson et al, hereinafter "Mendelson". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 provides a detachable power supply apparatus for an appliance that includes a temperature control device for electrical connection to the appliance and a power supply cord. The temperature control device has a first member extending outwardly from a first side of the temperature control device. A conductor is on the first side of the temperature control device, and a probe is on a second side that is opposite the first side. The power supply cord has a female electrical connector at a first end that connects to the conductor. The female connector is connectable to a power supply to supply power to the female connector and to the conductor. The power supply cord has a second member on the power supply's first end. The first member mechanically and selectively fastens to the second member so that upon application of a force upon the power supply cord the first member disengages the second member without disturbing a position of the appliance.

Mendelson discloses a detachable power supply apparatus for use with electrical appliances including removable temperature control devices. The apparatus includes a mounting panel on the temperature control device to which an electrical connector on a power supply cord is magnetically and electrically coupled. A magnetic couple is formed between a mounting panel contact plate 44 and magnetically conductive plates

76 (col. 6, lines 12-13). The magnetically conductive plates 76 extend forward and outward from the electrical receptacle 46 (col. 6, lines 13-14).

The Examiner argues on page 4 of the Office Action that “the first member is fastened by a force of friction. While this force is caused by a magnetic field, the connection is considered as being mechanical – frictionally connected.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Mendelson discloses a magnetic coupling between contact plate 44 and plates 76 that can withstand a predetermined tensile force $F1$ and a predetermined shear force $V1$ (col. 6, lines 16-21). Although there are frictional forces due to the physical contact between contact plate 44 and conductive plates 76, such frictional forces are not responsible for maintaining contact between the temperature control device and the power supply cord. Without the magnetic forces providing the coupling, plates 44 and 76 would break contact merely due to gravitational forces. Thus, frictional forces do not act to fasten the first and second members together; magnetic forces are the only forces in Mendelson responsible for fastening the first and second members together.

In addition, Mendelson explicitly recognizes the distinction between a magnetic coupling and mechanical coupling due to frictional forces, and explicitly states that the fastening of the first and second members is due to magnetic forces, and not frictional forces. Mendelson states that the “diameter of the holes 52 is also considerably larger than the diameter of the pins 35 and the pins 35 are not frictionally engaged within the holes 52 as with conventional plugs. Instead, the magnetic coupling described above secures the electrical receptacle 46 to the plug connection or mounting panel 24 with the desired release characteristics. (col. 6, lines 26-33)” Thus, Mendelson states that **coupling is due to magnetic forces, and not to frictional forces**, as the Examiner states. Mendelson thus fails to disclose that “said first member **mechanically** and selectively fastens to said second member,” as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Mendelson fails to disclose or suggest the elements of claim 1. Thus,

claim 1 is patentable over Mendelson.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 1. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, claims 9 and 10 are also patentable over Mendelson.

Independent claim 11 includes recitals similar to claim 1. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 1, claim 11 is patentable over Mendelson.

Claim 17 depends from claim 11. For at least reasoning similar to that provided in support of claim 11, claim 17 is also patentable over Mendelson.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claims 1, 9 through 11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Mendelson is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 9 through 11 and 17 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2 through 4, 8, 13 through 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mendelson in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,379,169 by Corona, hereinafter "Corona". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Corona provides an electrical plug connector provided with a locking mechanism (col. 2, lines 20-22). The locking mechanism includes a cylindrically shaped member extending from the periphery of the male part, and a latch attached to the periphery of the female part (col. 1, lines 29-35). This latch is adapted to receive the cylindrically shaped member therethrough, which locks the male and female connector parts together. A female connector part 20 includes a latch 70 on two opposite sides of a housing of the female connector (col. 2, lines 1-2). Latch 70 contains an aperture 72 into which cylindrical flange 100 fits to lock the female part 20 and male part 10 together (col. 2, lines 2-5). Cylindrical shaped flanges 100 extend from two opposite sides of a molded housing of a male connector part (col. 2, lines 12-13). Cylindrical shaped flange 100 is made of a resilient rubber so that it can be squeezed through latch 70 and then

resume its initial shape "to firmly lock the two connectors together" (col. 2, lines 21-24).

The Examiner states on page 4 of the Office Action, in response to Applicant's previous arguments, that the invention firmly locks the two members in place until a separating force with a specified intensity separates them, and that Corona operates analogically. Applicant respectfully disagrees, and contends that Corona does not operate analogically to either Mendelson or the invention as provided in claim 1.

Applicant reiterates that there is no motivation to combine the teachings of Mendelson and Corona, because Mendelson is concerned with removably coupling a temperature probe to a power supply plug, whereas Corona is concerned with locking electrical cable connector parts. Mendelson discloses that the plug can withstand a predetermined shearing or lateral **force on the power supply plug**. In contrast, there is no indication that the connector parts of Corona would disengage upon application of **a force on either connector part**.

The connection of Corona does not operate analogously to the present invention, in contrast to the Examiners contention. It appears that the connectors of Corona may be separated by opening or moving latches 70 over flanges 100. Providing a force on latches 70, as disclosed in Corona, is not analogous to breaking a connection by applying a force to the power supply plug as disclosed in Mendelson.

It appears that the usefulness of the plug connection of Corona for connecting electrical cables would be severely compromised if the connection of Corona operated analogously to Mendelson. If the connection of Corona could be broken by a force on either connector part, that connection would be undesirable for holding a connection between electrical cables, and potentially dangerous. Therefore, it appears that the connection of Corona is broken by moving latches 70, and thus Corona is not designed to be broken by application of a force on one of the connectors.

Thus, because Mendelson is concerned with providing a connection between

components that is overcome by a preselected tensile or shear force on one components, and Corona is concerned with providing a connection that is not broken by a force on one of the components, combining the teachings of Mendelson and Corona would render the devices of both Mendelson and Corona unsatisfactory for their respective intended purposes.

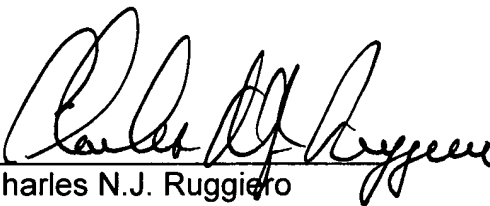
Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Mendelson and Corona. Therefore, claims 2 through 4, 12 through 16 and 18 are patentable over the cited combination of Mendelson and Corona.

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of claims 2 through 4, 12 through 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Mendelson in view of Corona is overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of 2 through 4, 12 through 16 and 18 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Charles N.J. Ruggiero
Reg. No. 28,468
Attorney for Applicant
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, LLP
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901-2682
Tel: (203) 327-4500
Fax: (203) 327-6401